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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE JUN 01 2001

In re Application of:
Taggart II, et al.

Serial No.: 09/304,298

Filed: May 3, 1999

For: Removal of Salts in the Manu-
facture of Phenolic Compound

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Group Art Unit: 1621

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Examiner: Michael L. Shippen

Atty. Docket: SHELL-TH1118

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6/5/01
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RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

This paper is filed in response to the office action mailed February 28, 2001. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 1-10, 12-14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 are allowable.

AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please delete claim 5 and insert therefor the following rewritten claim 5:

5. (Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein (c) comprises:
(i) adding the diluent composition to the crude phenolic bottoms stream thereby forming a diluted crude phenolic bottoms stream, and
(ii) subsequently mixing water with the diluted crude phenolic bottoms stream, thereby forming a separable crude phenolic bottoms stream.

11. (Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein a portion of said aqueous phase in step d) is recirculated and used as the water in step (c)(ii), and a portion of the aqueous phase is purged as a salt water purge.

15. (Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising:

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01 FC:103
02 FC:102